

Mr. John D. Jones, from the committee appointed to prepare rules of order for the government of this House during the present session, reported the following, which were read and adopted, viz.

TOUCHING THE DUTY OF THE SPEAKER.

1. He shall take the Chair every day, precisely at the hour to which the House shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and, on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the Journal of the preceding day to be read.
2. He shall preserve decorum and order; may speak to points of order, in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the House by any member. On which appeal, no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the House.
3. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.
4. Questions shall be distinctly put in this form, to wit: "As many as are of opinion that (as the question may be) say Aye;" and after the affirmative voice is expressed, "As many as are of a contrary opinion, say No." If the Speaker doubt, or a division be called for, the House shall divide: those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterwards those in the negative. If the Speaker still doubt, or a count be required, the Speaker shall name two members, one from each side, to tell the members in the affirmative; which being reported, he shall then name two others, one from each side, to tell those in the negative; which being also reported, he shall rise and state the decision to the House.
5. The Speaker shall examine and correct the Journal before it is read. He shall have a general direction of the Hall. He shall have the right to name any member to perform the duties of the Chair; but such substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment, except in case of sickness.
6. All committees shall be appointed by the Speaker, unless otherwise specially directed by the House.
7. In all cases of ballot by the House, the Speaker shall vote. In other cases he shall not vote, unless the House be equally divided; or unless his vote, if given to the minority, will make the division equal; in case of such equal division, the question shall be lost.
8. The Speaker shall arrange the orders of the day, unless the House shall otherwise direct.
9. All acts, addresses and joint resolutions, shall be signed by the Speaker; and all writs, warrants and subpoenas, issued by order of the House, shall be under his hand and seal, attested by the Clerk.
10. In case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries or lobby, the Speaker (or chairman of the committee of the whole) shall have power to order the same to be cleared.
11. Stenographers wishing to take down the debates may be admitted by the Speaker, who shall assign such places to them on the floor, or elsewhere, to effect their object, as shall not interfere with the convenience of the House.

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE DAY.

12. The unfinished business in which the House was engaged at the last preceding adjournment, shall have the preference in the orders of the day; and no motion or any other business shall be received, without special leave of the House, until the former is disposed of.

OF DECORUM AND DEBATE.

13. When any member is about to speak, in debate, or deliver any matter to the House, he shall rise from his seat, and respectfully address himself to the Speaker.
14. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgress the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or any other member may, call him to order; in which case the member so called to order, shall immediately take his seat, unless permitted to clear a matter of fact, or to explain; and the House shall, if appealed to, decide on the case. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case require it, he shall be liable to the censure of the House.
15. When two or more members rise at the same time, the Speaker shall name the member to speak.
16. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question, without leave of the House.